JOINT RESOLUTION REGARDING JOBS IN RURAL UTAH

2017 GENERAL SESSION
STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Kevin T. Van Tassell
House Sponsor: Scott H. Chew

LONG TITLE
General Description:
This joint resolution of the Legislature encourages business expansion and development in rural Utah.

Highlighted Provisions:
This resolution:
• encourages the creation of 25,000 new jobs over the next four years throughout 25 rural counties;
• encourages collaboration and partnership to address economic barriers and pro-business strategies in rural Utah; and
• urges businesses to consider the advantages of expansion into rural counties.

Special Clauses:
None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:
WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Management and Budget has projected an obtainable goal of creating 25,000 new jobs over the next four years throughout 25 rural Utah counties;
WHEREAS, a blossoming, strong rural economy is beneficial for each county, the entire state, the citizens of Utah, and the greater economy;
WHEREAS, the state's economy is only as strong as its weakest county, and economic prosperity will not inevitably trickle down from the Wasatch Front to rural communities in Utah;
WHEREAS, Utah has received continued recognition and honors for its healthy and robust economy, management of the state, being pro-business, and having a technology concentration and dynamism;

WHEREAS, the potential to build Utah's strengths and develop an economy for the future to enhance the nation's most dynamic economy will not be reached without established and prolonged economic development in rural communities of the state;

WHEREAS, Utah's rural areas offer essential commodities, recreation and commercial activities, and natural resources, such as energy, agriculture, and mineral resources, that can provide economic benefits to the state;

WHEREAS, existing tax credit programs and grants provide lucrative incentives for infrastructure development and companies in rural Utah to further promote business and economic development;

WHEREAS, business expansion into rural Utah may ease pollution and traffic congestion along the Wasatch Front, while strengthening rural economies and providing families with opportunities to raise their children in a scenic rural environment;

WHEREAS, distributing Utah's workforce to encompass rural communities can lessen the impact along the Wasatch Front when an industry in the state's diverse and dynamic economy encounters hardships;

WHEREAS, rural communities throughout Utah offer hardworking candidates for employment, and businesses should consider hiring remote rural employees; and

WHEREAS, rural prosperity must be actively sought through collaborative efforts between business, state, and county leaders to foster a pro-business and infrastructure development friendly environment, with special consideration given to the core rural counties that have not been experiencing significant growth:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages business expansion and development to be the driving economic forces in rural Utah and supports and encourages the creation of 25,000 new jobs over the next four years throughout 25 rural counties.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah encourages state agencies to work in partnership with county and local officials, rural leaders, and businesses, to create strategies for addressing economic barriers and encouraging business expansion and growth in Utah's rural communities.